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Illinois Fact Sheet



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National Register of Historic Places

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Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Division of Preservation Services

The National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of places that are recognized for their historical, architectural, or archaeological significance and considered worthy of preservation. The National Register is maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior, and nominations of Illinois properties to the Register are processed through the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.



Part of Buena Park Historic District (Chicago)

Criteria for Evaluating a Place

Properties eligible for listing on the National Register include buildings, districts, sites, structures, and objects that are significant to national, state, and local history through the integrity of their location, design, setting, materials, feelings, and association. A building, district, or site must also —

- be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history;
- be associated with the lives of significant persons in our past;
- be distinctive for its type, period, and method of construction; or represent the work of a master, or possess artistic value; or, in the case of district, be representative of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
- yield important information about the area's history or prehistory.



Benefits of National Register Designation

National Register listing provides limited protection, makes a property eligible for certain financial benefits, and may increase a community's awareness of its cultural resources by —

- requiring that projects involving federal monies, licenses, or assistance be examined for their effect on the historic property;
- making properties eligible for grants-in-aid, when available;
- offering a property tax abatement for rehabilitating single-family owner-occupied residences;
- offering federal income tax credits for rehabilitating income-producing properties;
- increasing awareness of historic properties and promoting a sense of pride in past achievements.

The National Register Does NOT

The National Register does not interfere with a private owner's property rights, nor does it —

- prevent private property owners from making changes or force owners to make improvements to their property;
- limit the use of listed buildings or require owners to erect or purchase plaques;
- require properties be accessible to the public or open to the public;

The National Register Process

Applications to the National Register must pass through a four-step process coordinated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency's National Register staff.

Part 1: Preliminary Staff Review

- Interested applicants are required to submit information and photographs of the property, which will permit the staff to evaluate a place's significance and integrity.
- After evaluation of submitted material, a written staff opinion is sent to the applicant. The evaluation will explain why or why not the place deserves further consideration. If the staff opinion is positive, a nomination form is forwarded to the applicant along with recommendations for completing the form. If a negative staff opinion is given, the applicant may still request a nomination form, and the applicant will be advised of criteria issues that should be addressed.



Auditorium Building (Chicago)

Part 2: Submitting the National Register Form

- Following receipt of a complete and correct form the property will be scheduled for consideration at the next meeting of the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council.
- If the property is within a Certified Local Government the nomination will be forwarded to the community for its official comment on the listing.



McCarty Round Barn (Filson vicinity)

Part 3: Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council

The fifteen members of the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council are appointed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, who in Illinois is the Director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Council members represent both academic and advocate positions in the three fields required by law — history, archaeology, architectural history, and related fields. The Council, which meets four times a year, evaluates the property against National Register criteria and votes whether or not to advise nomination of a place.

Part 4: State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)/Department of Interior

- A positive vote by the Council advances the nomination to the SHPO, who has the authority to officially nominate the property.
- The nomination is then sent to the Keeper of the National Register, Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C., who has 45 days to act on the nomination. The Keeper of the National Register has the final authority to designate properties to the National Register.

- If the nomination is approved neither by the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council nor the State Historic Preservation Officer, an appeal may be made to the Keeper of the National Register.

Additional Information

For more information on the National Register program in Illinois write or call:

National Register Coordinator
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Old State Capitol
Springfield, IL 62701
217-785-4512

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